

AMENDED CLAIMS

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1. Use of a hydrophilic support derivatised with positively charged groups, for sample application to an acidic interval IPG (immobilised pH gradient) gel, wherein the support is placed between the cathode and the anode side of the gel.
2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the support is made of regenerated cellulose, dextran, agarose, polyvinylalcohol, polyether sulfone, polysulfone, cellulose acetate, polyurethane, polyamide, nylon or other types of membranes and composite membranes.
3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the positively charged groups are cation groups.
4. Use according to claim 3, wherein the cation groups are quaternary groups.
5. Use according to claim 4, wherein the quaternary groups are QAE or Q groups.
6. Use according to claim 5, wherein the cation groups are DEAE- groups.
7. Use according to any of the above claims, wherein the IPG gel is a pre-swollen RTG (ready-to-go) gel.
8. Use according to one or more of the above claims, wherein the support is made of regenerated cellulose derivatised with quaternary groups.
9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the quaternary groups are Q-groups.
10. Use according to one or more of the above claims, wherein the sample is applied in preparative amounts.
11. Use according to one or more of the above claims, as a first step in 2D electrophoresis.
12. Kit comprising a positively charged sample application support according to any of the above claims and an acidic interval IPG gel or strip.

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13. Kit according to claim 12, wherein the IPG gel is a RTG-gel.
14. Kit according to claim 12, wherein the acidic interval is pH 3.5-5.
15. Kit according to one or more of the claims 12-14, wherein the support is made of regenerated cellulose derivatised with Q-groups.
16. Sample applicator for acidic interval IPG electrophoresis, comprising regenerated cellulose derivatised with cation groups.
17. Sample applicator according to claim 16, comprising regenerated cellulose derivatised with Q-groups.